

What Is Claimed Is:

5 1. An improved body element for use in a modular prosthetic stem component of the sort comprising a body element and at least one other element, wherein the body element and the at least one other element are joined together by at least one modular connection, wherein the improved body element comprises:

10 an anterior wall and a posterior wall, at least one of said anterior wall and said posterior wall converging toward the other on the medial side of the body element and diverging away from the other on the lateral side of the body element, whereby the body
15 element approximates a general wedge shape.

20 2. An improved body element according to claim 1 wherein said body element further comprises a lateral aspect extending between said anterior wall and said posterior wall.

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8. An improved body element according to claim 7 wherein said body element comprises a generally trapezoidal configuration.

5 9. An improved body element according to claim 8 wherein the vertices of said body element have a rounded configuration.

10. An improved body element according to claim 1 wherein said anterior wall is substantially flat.

11. An improved body element according to claim 1 wherein said posterior wall is substantially flat.

15 12. An improved body element according to claim 2 wherein said lateral aspect is substantially flat.

13. An improved body element according to claim 7 wherein medial aspect is substantially flat.

14. An improved modular prosthetic stem component comprising:

5 a body element and at least one other element, wherein said body element and said at least one other element are joined together by at least one modular connection;

and further wherein said body element comprises an anterior wall and a posterior wall, at least one of said anterior wall and said posterior wall converging toward the other on the medial side of said body element and diverging away from the other on the lateral side of said body element, whereby the body element approximates a general wedge shape.

15 15. An improved prosthetic total hip joint comprising:

20 a modular prosthetic stem component and a prosthetic acetabular cup component, wherein said modular prosthetic stem component comprises a body element and at least one other element, wherein said

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body element and said at least one other element are
joined together by at least one modular connection;

and further wherein said body element comprises
an anterior wall and a posterior wall, at least one of
said anterior wall and said posterior wall converging
toward the other on the medial side of said body
element and diverging away from the other on the
lateral side of said body element, whereby said body
element approximates a general wedge shape.

16. An improved method for restoring a hip
joint, said method comprising:

providing an improved prosthetic total hip joint
comprising:

a modular prosthetic stem component and a
prosthetic acetabular cup component, wherein said
modular prosthetic stem component comprises a body
element and at least one other element, wherein said
body element and said at least one other element are
joined together by at least one modular connection;

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